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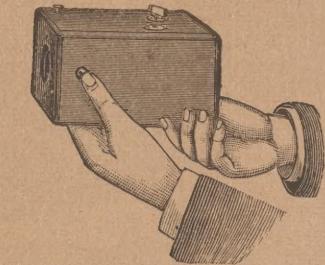
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VOL. X.—No. 72.

NEW YORK, AUGUST, 1891.

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January 1891.

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PLAIN TALK.

VOL. X.

NEW YORK, AUGUST, 1891.

No. 72.

BEING FAITHFUL.

MRS. M. J. SMITH.

POOR BOY, he was so weary! All day he had been going up and down, traversing the long dark streets, carrying messages and sometimes packages for and to those who never paused to think of the hungry half-chilled child who addressed them so deferentially and answered all questions so politely.

He was so tired, so discouraged; his head throbbed, and his heart ached, for he was alone in the world. Scarcely a month had elapsed since his mother had died, leaving him alone to battle with the world as best he could. But her precepts still lived; she had been a loving but wise little mother, and had instilled principles into Ralph's mind which would go with him through life.

Nor did he forget her last words, "My boy, be faithful in all you undertake." Trust God, and do your duty at all times and in all places. Ask Him to help you. He will listen and take care of you, never fear."

He thought of all this as he stood in Hurdstone & Pusher's office on that cold, stormy evening, trying to warm his benumbed fingers. Warm! When had he been warm? It seemed so long ago that it was like some far-off dream.

"Hurry up now, boy! No lagging! We can't keep boys like you standing around the stove drowsing the time away. This message is important and should go at once. You must get it there before eight o'clock and it is past six already. Two doors south of the old foundry, don't forget. It is a good two miles, so hustle along."

Ralph buttoned his thin little jacket as close as he could and taking the message in his bare, blue fingers again went out into the driving storm.

"I say, Ned," said Will Fisher who had just entered preparatory to going home, "It's a shame to send a little fellow like him so far away on such a night as this, and at this late hour too."

"Can't help it, orders are orders and the higher will must be accomplished. What do they (meaning his employers) care for flesh and blood?"

"He is so prompt and faithful, too, it is a burning shame," replied the first speaker.

"That's just why I sent him," answered the other. "He's the only boy in the building I would trust, to-night. He'll go all right, don't you worry. These street boys never feel the cold. A snow, or rain-storm won't hurt them more than water rolling off a duck's back interferes with its locomotion or happiness," and having delivered himself of this

cheerful idea, which he no doubt thought he originated, he drew on his fur-trimmed overcoat and mittens and thus equipped manfully went forth to do battle with the elements without.

"This is an awful night sure. One can scarcely keep breath or footing" said he, and hailing a passing car the two were soon comfortably borne to their very doors, Will being too indignant to make further reply,

Ralph pushed bravely on until blinded by the fury of the storm he lost his way. Still on and on he wandered. Would he never reach the end of his journey? Where was the old foundry? Everything looked strange. Marble fronts and tall mansions loomed up on every side but still on and on he plodded. How much farther the tired feet would go he was revolving in his mind when he was jostled from the sidewalk and fell against the steps leading to one of the numerous palaces in our city.

He must rest a moment. Only a moment, he told himself. How bright it looked inside and the poor boy stretched his benumbed hands toward the windows as if he expected the glow of that great light to reac'i to his greater need.

"Oh! I cannot stay here," he cried, "what will those people say if I am not on time?" and with an effort he endeavored to regain his feet but could not do it; all power of motion seemed to have departed. Again and again he tried to make his poorly shod feet uphold his body but all in vain. Cold and hunger would have their way. He had eaten nothing since morning save an apple given him by a kind-hearted newsboy, and now with his hand

tightly clasped over a tiny locket, his one earthly possession, he sank into an unconsciousness that might have been fatal in a very short time.

"Good night and a happy New Year to all," said Mr. Morrison, as he closed the door of his office and bowed to those who, like himself, were proposing to depart. Then stepping into the street where his carriage awaited him, he ordered the driver to take a circuitous route home that he might see for himself that several poor families were provided with needful supplies to render the coming day a happy one to them. These calls having been made, the restive horses turned their heads toward home and were not long in reaching their destination.

As the gentleman alights he peers sharply at the queer little heap lying on his doorstep.



"I think it is only a stray dog," said the coachman. "I saw it before I got down, sir."

"Stand out of the light, Jason, and let us investigate," said Mr. Morrison. Great Heavens! It is a poor frozen child. Drive for Dr. Hashell at once and tell him to come immediately," and ringing the bell before the amazed servants could assist he carried the senseless form inside.

It was a long time ere Ralph regained consciousness enough to open his eyes. Oh, the bewildering luxury that opened to his confused gaze. Do you wonder the astonished child associated the place with Heaven? Could that home be more beautiful? Was mother somewhere near? Were these the faces of angels? "Oh yes! mother told me"—Here the memory of the undelivered message disturbed him, and springing up he cried excitedly, "Where is it? I have lost it. Oh! I have lost it, what shall I do? I must go and find it."

"Find what, my child? What have you lost?" asked Mrs. Morrison taking Ralph's trembling hand in her own. "Tell us all about it."

"Please don't be angry with me. I promised to take an important letter to the Old Foundry, but I was so long finding it and then I went to sleep. What will they think of me?" cried he. "It must be there before eight o'clock, the clerk told me so, I must go, oh please let me go at once."

"My dear child that shall all be attended to," said the lady, but before she had done speaking, he had fallen back on his pillow and lapsed again into a heavy stupor.

"How could any one be such a brute as to send that child out on a night like this? I shall call on them to-morrow and express my feelings in no measured terms, I can assure you," said Mr. Morrison.

"What delicately cut features he has," replied his wife smiling at the unusual impetuosity of her husband's words and manner. "There is something strangely familiar about them too, and what do you say wife to adopting the poor waif as our own?" inquired the gentleman.

"By all means if there is no one else to claim him. If he has parents they must be reduced to great extremities to allow their child in this position," and the warm, motherly heart beat with a new and strange emotion.

"We shall see, we shall see!" replied Mr. Morrison blowing his nose in the most suspicious manner.

Morning came at last, clear and cold. Only the unsullied whiteness of the unbroken streets and the sleet-laden boughs gave evidence of last night's furious storm. Wires were down, traffic must stop until the thoroughfares could be opened. Ralph was still sleeping, and leaving a servant in charge Mr. and Mrs. Morrison descended to the breakfast room.

Presently a servant entered and laying a tiny locket on one corner of the table said, "This was fastened to the little blouse we carried to the kitchen last night. It may be of some use in finding his parents."

Mrs. Morrison was the first to pick it up. "This must be a likeness of his mother. Do you not think so?" and she passed it to her husband who by this time had carefully wiped and adjusted his spectacles.

A strange pallor came over his face and stepping to the window he burst into tears. "It is the face of Clara, my dear sister Clara," and forgetting his breakfast he hurried to the bedside of their little patient.

An hour later he knew all that Ralph could tell. How until the year before when father died they lived with comfort as Ralph expressed himself, "Had everything they wanted." Then Papa's long illness when he could not earn anything. The doctor's bills and funeral expenses that took all they had except the few dollars that had brought them to this great city. How they had gathered a few trifles together and lived in one tiny room where mother had tried to get music scholars but being a stranger and failing in this had endeavored to earn their bread by sewing for a shop near by, where the pay was scarcely more than a pittance. Ralph running on errands and assisting in every way he could. How that dear mother had sickened and died. Had been buried by stranger hands and with no kind friend to care. The poor boy had struggled on alone ever since. How in her delirium she had talked of her dear brother Ralph, and when she was a little girl.

"Both gone," groaned the old gentleman in agony of spirit. "Oh God, how have I been punished! We parted in anger but if they had only known. If either Arthur or Annie had come to me at any time, or if I had known where to find them we should have been reconciled long ago. Oh! the sin of a hasty word that can never be recalled!"

"Ralph, my boy, God sent you here. I am your mother's brother. This shall be your home."

Ralph is now a man filling a high position but he never regrets his endeavor to be faithful on that terrible night.

TALKS ON PHOTOGRAPHY.

BY GOTTHELF PACH, 935 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

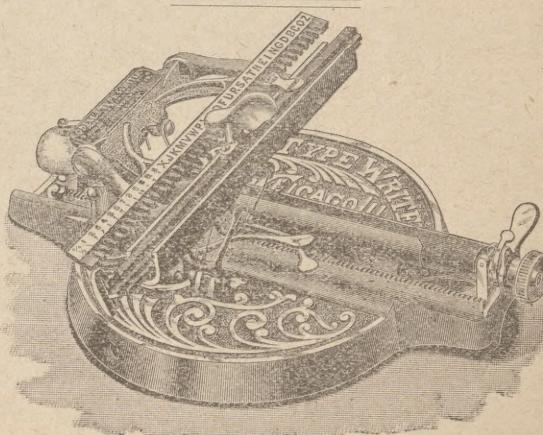
IN our last talk I promised to tell you how we develop our plates. This work must be done in a dark room lit up only by red or yellow light. We need the following things: One or two trays to hold the developing solutions, and one tray to hold the hypo-sulphite of soda which clears the negative after it is developed.

Now for the developer, which can be mixed by daylight.

Have ready four bottles. In one put half ounce of Pyro and six ounces of water, in the next put half ounce of sulphite soda and six ounces water, and in the third put $\frac{1}{8}$ of an ounce of carb. soda and six ounces water. Of the pyro, take a one-half ounce; of the sulphite of soda, take four ounces; of the carb. of soda, take four ounces. Mix these three things either in your four bottles or in your tray, and your developer is ready. Take one-quarter lb. of hypo soda and about a pint of water. Mix in one tray which you will need later on. This may take a half hour to dissolve.

Now darken your room, take your plate out of the holder and lay it in the solution and move the tray so that the solution goes over the plate with one sweep. If there is any stop the negative will show lines, which sometimes spoils the picture. If the image comes up with a flash and darkens, the exposure has been too long; if it comes up very slow, say in about three or four minutes, then it is underexposed, and you have not exposed long enough or you haven't had a good light on your subject.

Developing a plate should take from three to five minutes as a rule, and can only be learnt by experience. When developed wash it under the tap for a moment and then put it into the tray which contains the hypo soda. When all signs of milkiness has disappeared from the plate it is then ready to be washed which should be done by putting the plate under running water for five or ten minutes. When washed it is put in a rack to dry and your negative is ready to print.



The Odell Typewriter.

THE fine machine illustrated above will be the prize in the word-hunt contest following the one announced in this issue. The "Odell" is manufactured by the Odell Typewriter Co., 358 Dearborn St., Chicago, and the manufacturers will send descriptive circulars to any interested parties on application, if PLAIN TALK is mentioned. It is thought best not to give complete particulars of the contest until next month, but the base words to be used will be, "ODELL, THE KING."

THE American Archaeological Association.

*President, A. F. BERLIN, Allentown, Pa.
Vice-President, Dr. D. S. MCARTHUR, Lacrosse, Wis.
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10 Coral Street, Worcester, Mass.; G. L. FANCHER, West Winsted, Conn.*

Secretary's Report.

I HAVE received from Mr. L. V. McWhorter the following:
APPLICATION.

H. W. Williamson, New Gallilee, Beaver Co., Pa.

References: A. F. Berlin, Allentown, Pa.; L. V. McWhorter, Berlin, W. Va.

I intend sending each member of the Association a number of the new application blanks, which also contain matter descriptive of the Association, and hope they will circulate them among their friends and correspondents.

At present it does not seem as though any convention would be held this summer for lack of attendance. Those who can come to Washington will please send me a postal suggesting a convenient date for meeting.

Again, I wish to say, do not be afraid to send any contributions to the official editor, our membership is widely scattered and it would be interesting to hear from each section of the country represented on our rolls.

If I have omitted to send a copy of the Constitution to any of the paid up members they will please notify me and I will do so at once, as it is important that each member have one.

A. B. FARNSHAM, Secretary A. A. A.

A Correction—And a Suggestion.

WITH the editor's permission I desire to correct a prevailing opinion regarding the legality of excavations carried on at Fort Ancient under the auspices of the World's Fair, in April, May and June. Mr. Farnham has seen it stated in the daily papers that we were stopped on the grounds that we were opening graves contrary to Ohio statutes. One or two old cranks published letters in the county papers ventilating their ideas concerning the "sacredigious and ghoulish work" and advocating—"that the strong arm of the law seize Mr. W. K. M." From the county journals the "news" got into the city press, and your humble servant began to receive letters of condolence from friends. Yet during the three months our investigations went steadily on without interruption. We took out skeleton after skeleton nor were we either "arrested" or "indicted." Why the reports should have been so widely circulated I cannot explain, unless it be on account of the following reason:

I have done much newspaper work and have a general acquaintance among reporters. My friends appreciate a joke (who does not?) and, accordingly, kept the ball rolling. Really, it was a huge joke. The Washington Star calls the "indictment" a "comic opera scrape," and the Cincinnati Enquirer says, "there are extenuating circumstances." Assuming, then, that the joke is "on me" I stand ready to treat to soda water or cigars. So, friends, call!

Mr. Farnham also writes regarding the meeting in August. Now, why could not the members consider this:

The American Association for the Advancement of Science meets August 19th to 25th in Washington. Section H is devoted to archaeology. Such men as Holmes, Putnam, Wilson, Mason, Beachamp, Powell and others will be present to read or talk. The total attendance (Indianapolis) last year was upwards of five hundred members with several thousand visitors in addition. Would it not be well for the A. A. A. to meet about the same time and attend in a body the session of Section H?

I have always advocated the union of the A. A. A. with Section H. There is so much to be learned from the yearly meetings of a great organization composed of the best established scientists in the country, as is the A. A. A. S. The dues are about \$8.00 a year. Members get a 400 pp. report each session and the papers read (and incorporated in each report) are worth more than the fees. Think of a paper but

five minutes long, yet on which some professor has worked four or five weeks!

Last summer at Indianapolis we were given a free train (and refreshments) all through the gas belt. Every town en route welcomed the four hundred members aboard the train. Then there are receptions and entertainments held in honor of the A. A. A. S. nearly every evening of the session. If the officers of the A. A. A. could only see but one day of Section H's sitting I doubt not that the union would be effected. Belonging to the A. A. A. S., I have friends among its officers and fellows and can insure the election of such (to membership) as desire to join.

At least, Mr. President and members of the A. A. A., consider the advisability of meeting the 19th or 20th and of "dropping in" if only for an hour, to the session of Section H. I will be glad to show you around.

WARREN K. MOOREHEAD.

A Word from the "Official Editor."

THE suggestion of Mr. Moorehead, given elsewhere, is deserving of careful consideration from every member of the A. A. A. The writer discussed this very matter with Mr. Moorehead some months ago, and while he is not prepared to say that it would be the best thing for the Association to do yet he believes the scheme should be thoroughly discussed. Will not every member of the A. A. A. let us know what he thinks of it? Ask questions, if needs be, and so gain information regarding the American Association for the Advancement of Science, for arrangements will be made so that all inquiries will receive careful answer from competent persons.

An Interesting Collection.

I HAVE in my collection of minerals and Indian relics, etc., some things that I think will be of interest to others, three arrow heads, found here, being the last additions. One is of quartz, well cut, and the other two are of flint and finely cut. I have also a small knife, as I suppose it to be. It is made of a curious, black and green stone, and is as smooth as glass on the outside. Nothing like the stone it was made of can be found for miles around. It is sharpened on three sides, and is about two inches long and one wide in the widest part. It was plowed up near old Fort St. Ann. Another specimen, found at the same time, is a flint cut like an arrow head (I forgot to say that the other shows no sign of cutting), and is pointed on both ends with a curve around the middle for a thong to be tied around. As the boys say, "the puzzle of this is how they fixed it so as to make both ends work at once." This is about three inches long and one wide in the middle. Besides these I have thirteen arrowheads and spearheads, from Pennsylvania, one spearhead and two arrowheads from Arizona, and one arrowhead from Michigan.

I have about thirty varieties of marble found in this State and some nice polished pieces of Barre Granite. I have some beads made from the seeds of a shrub which grows in the South Sea Islands, and I have a little book carved out of the wood they grew on. The beads are about this size O only perfectly round, and look as though they had been carved in some beautiful Indian pattern. I have a bow of ribbon brought from England more than a hundred years ago, and mamma has an old Bible which was her great grandfather's. It is a hundred and forty-six years since he received it. She has also the arithmetic her father and uncle studied when they were boys, an old dress and coat that have passed more than half a hundred years in her family, and an old pocketbook nearly as aged as the Bible. I have a bag to keep letters in made of a piece of linen my great grandmother wove and spun. We have a queer basket made by the Indians, thirty years ago, of porcupine quills and birch bark. I have sea shells brought from South Sea Islands, the Hudson river, etc. I have found garnets here as large as marbles, but they are rather scarce. I will write no more now though I have between seven and eight hundred specimens in my collection. I would like to have some one tell me what those "articles" I have described so carefully are.

ANNA M. FLEURY.

Isle LeMotte, Vt.

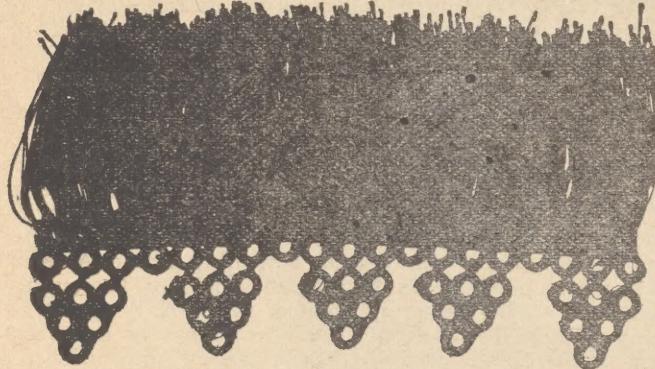
LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

EDITED BY
MRS. N. F. PERKINS, OCEANUS, N. Y.

Fancy Work.

SHOPPING BAG.

THIS bag is made from two pieces of black satin, thirteen inches long and eight inches wide, and is lined with black satteen; two and a half inches are turned in at the top for a finish. A casing for cord is stitched two inches from top, a yard and a half of black silk cord is required. Ten points of ring work is next made, five for each side of the

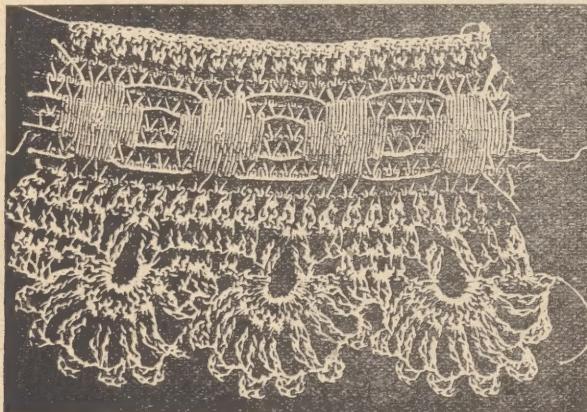


bag, this ring work is made in double crochet using the medium sized steel rings and black knitting silk, four rows are required, the first row having four rings; the second, three; third, two, and the fourth, one. Sew each point securely to bag. The bottom is finished with one row of ring work, and on each ring fasten twelve six inch lengths of the knitting silk to make a fringe.

NOVELTY LACE.

A PIECE of novelty braid, the length of lace wanted No. thirty thread and fine crochet hook.

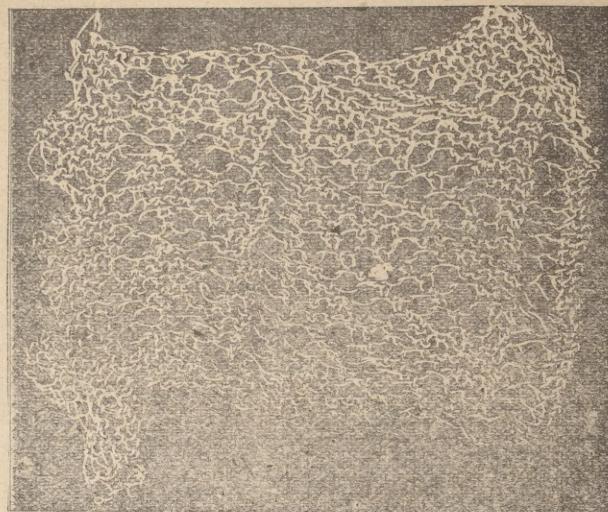
First row—Two tr. in each pecot of braid. Second row—Two tr. in space between second and third trebles of third row, repeat three times, miss one space and in the next one work one long treble, five chain, and two long trebles, repeat from beginning of the row. Third row—Two tr. between second and third, of last row, repeat twice in next two spaces be-



tween trebles, sixteen tr. in five chain, repeat from beginning of the row. Fourth row—Two tr. between second and third tr. of last row, repeat once, two long tr. between second and third of the sixteen, tr. in last row, chain four, and one tr. fasten in first chain to form a pecot, repeat, between every two tr. around scallop then repeat from beginning of the row. Heading two tr. in each pecot.

COMBINATION LACE.

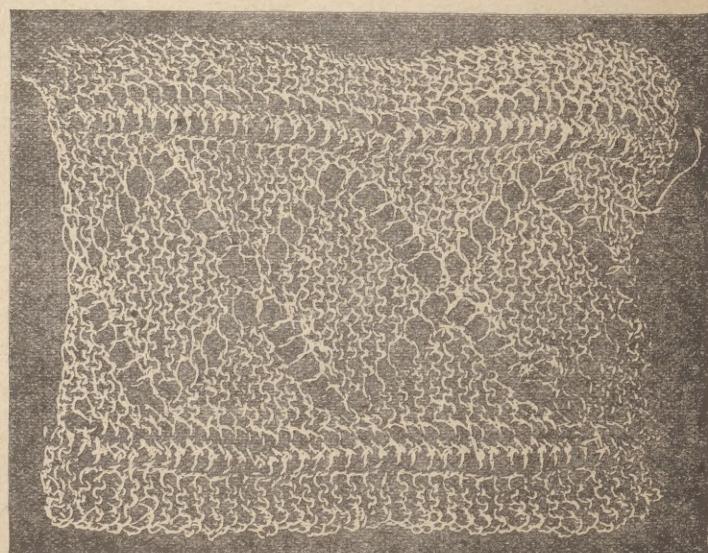
CAST on twenty-nine stitches and k. across plain. First row—K. three o., n., k. one, o., n., o., n., o., n., k. five o., n., k. three o., k. one, o., k. six. Second row—K. thirteen, o., n., k. thirteen, o., n., k. one. Third row—K. three, o., n., k. two o., n., o., n., n., k. four, o., n., k. one, n., o., k. three o., k. six. Fourth row—K. fourteen, o., n., k. thirteen, o., n., k. one. Fifth row—K. three, o., n., k. three, o., n., o., n.,



o., n., k. three, o., n., n., o., k. five, o., k. six. Sixth row—K. fifteen, o., n., k. thirteen, o., n., k. one. Seventh row—K. three, o., n., k. four, o., n., o., n., o., n., k. two, o., k. three together, o., n., k. three, n., o., k. six. Eighth row—Bind off three k. ten, o., n., k. thirteen o., n., k. one. Ninth row—K. three o., n., k. five o., n., o., n., o., n., k. one, o., n., k. one, o., n., k. one, n., o., k. four. Tenth row—K. eleven o., n., k. thirteen, o., n., k. one. Eleventh row—K. three, o., n., k. six o., n., o., n., o., n., o., n., k. two o., sl one, n., pass sl stitch over the narrowed one, o., k. five. Twelfth row—K. eleven, o., n., k. thirteen o., n., k. one, repeat from first to twelfth row.

INSERTION TO MATCH COMBINATION LACE.

CAST on twenty-seven stitches k. across plain. First row—K. three o., two, purl two together, k. eight, o., n., k. five, o., two, purl two together, o., n., k. five, o., two, purl two together, k. three. Second row—Same as the first. Third row—K. three, o., two, purl two together, k. nine, o., n., k. four, o., two, purl two together, k. three. Fourth row—Same as the third. Fifth row—K. three, o., two, purl two together, k. ten, o., n., k. three, o., two, purl together, k. three. Sixth row—Same as fifth. Seventh row—K. three, o., two, purl two together, k. eleven, o., n., k. two, o., two, purl two together, k. three. Eighth row—Same as seventh. Ninth row—K. three, o., two, purl two together, k. twelve, o., n., k. one, o., two, purl two together, k. three.



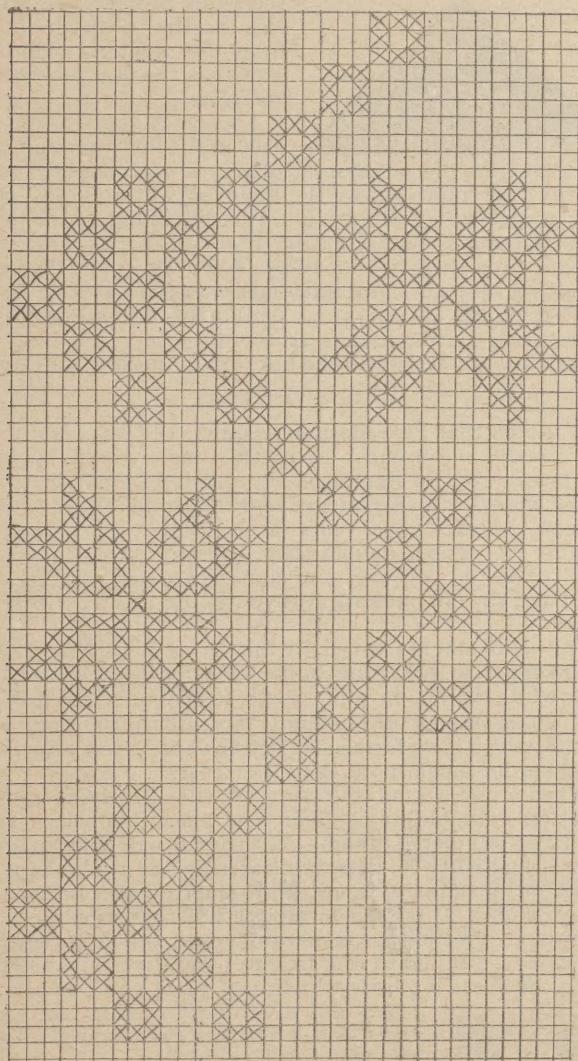
Tenth row—Same as ninth. Eleventh row—K. three, o., two, purl two together, k. thirteen, o., n., o., two, purl two together, k. three. Twelfth row—Same as eleventh. Thirteenth row—K. three, o., two, purl two together, k. fifteen, o., two, purl two together, k. three. Fourteenth row—K. three, o., two, purl two together, k. one, o., n., k. twelve o.

two, purl two together, k. three. Fifteenth row—Same as fourteenth. Sixteenth row—K. three, o. two, purl two together, k. two, o., n., k. eleven, o. two, purl two together, k. three. Seventeenth row—Same as sixteenth. Eighteenth row—K. three, o. two, purl two together, k. three, o., n., k. ten, o. two, purl two together, k. three. Nineteenth row—Same as eighteenth. Twentieth row—K. three, o. two, purl two together, k. four, o., n., k. nine, o. two, purl two together, k. three. Twenty-first row—Same as twentieth. Twenty-second row—K. three, o. two, purl two together, k. five, o., n., k. eight, o. two, purl two together, k. three. Twenty-third row—Same as twenty-second. Twenty-fourth row—K. three, o. two, purl two together, k. six, o., n., k. seven, o. two, purl two together, k. three. Twenty-fifth row—Same as twenty-fourth. Twenty-sixth row—K. three, o. two, purl two together, k. fifteen, o. two, purl two together, k. three. Repeat from first to twenty-sixth row.

MRS. FULLER.

CROSS-STITCH WORK ON GINGHAM.

THIS work is done after dress or apron has been finished. White or colored linen floss is needed, thickness to agree with the blocks on the gingham. The smaller the check of gingham the prettier and finer the work. When



white is used, cross out the darkest squares. When red or other dark colored floss is used strike out the white spots, thus making the embroidery appear lighter or darker than the ground work.

HOT BISCUIT NAPKIN.

THESE napkins are made from a twenty-two inch square of butcher's linen or momie cloth. Leave a twelve inch square of the material plain, next fold over corners,

cutting a V shaped piece three inches wide on four sides between corners. Fringe corners. Stamp and outline any appropriate design. A plate of hot biscuits with the words, "Hot Biscuit" is on the one here illustrated. Hot corn napkins are made same way with corn designs instead of biscuit. These napkins can be bought ready stamped for outlining.

Our Cook Book.

WILL not each reader of PLAIN TALK send in her best recipe?

I MAKE A VARIETY OF SMALL CAKES FROM ONE DOUGH.

One-half cup of butter, one and one-half cups of sugar, three cups of flour, three eggs, one teaspoonful of soda, three teaspoonfuls of Cream of Tartar, lemon, vanilla, rose or any preferred flavor.

This will make sixteen good sized patty pans full. When cold enough to handle, remove from tins and with a sharp knife cut out as large a cap from the top of each as a silver dollar. Scoop out inside, leaving only a shell. (Reserve the caps). Fill with any of the following, replace caps, ice and set in oven for a couple of minutes.

No. one filling—Slice one banana very thin, add tablespoonful of powdered sugar, mash fine, add a little beaten white of egg.

No. two filling—Make one cup of custard, add powdered sugar and mashed strawberries; red icing is nicer with these. Make by using red sugar with white or add a few drops of fruit coloring to the white icing.

No. three filling—Use yolks of two eggs, three teaspoonfuls of corn starch, one-fourth cup of sugar, one cup of milk and flavor with vanilla.

No. four filling—Make a chocolate custard and ice with a chocolate icing.

No. five filling—Whip grated cocoanut in white of egg and powdered sugar, and use cocoanut icing.

No. six filling—Make a rose flavored custard; make red icing.

No. seven filling—Do not remove caps, but turn cakes bottom up and scoop out centers. Fill this with whipped cream. Pile it high on top instead of icing.

No. eight filling—Prepare as number seven. Fill with strawberries and whipped cream piled on top.

MRS. H. W. C.

STEAMED RASPBERRY PUDDING.

Two cups of flour, two teaspoonsfuls of Royal Baking Powder, one saltspoonful of salt, one egg, one cup of milk, one tablespoonful of sugar. Mix and beat well, then add two cups of raspberries well dredged with flour. Pour into a well-greased mould or tin pail with a close top, set it in a pot of boiling water, steam two hours. Serve hot with sweet sauce or whipped cream and powdered sugar.

SWEET SAUCE.

One cupful of brown sugar, one-half cup of boiling water, one teaspoonful of corn starch dissolved in two tablespoonsfuls of cold water. Boil, strain, flavor with lemon or vanilla, and set in hot water till needed.

HELEN.

LEMON PUDDING.

Scald two cups of milk, stir into milk two liberal tablespoonsfuls of corn-starch, wet up in four tablespoonsfuls of cold water. Cook—stirring all the time until it thickens well; add one heaping teaspoonful of butter, set aside until perfectly cold. Beat three eggs light, add one scant cup of sugar, juice of two lemons and grated peel of one lemon. Next add the stiffened corn starch milk, beat well. Bake in a buttered dish and eat cold.

MRS. G. BECKER.

Ladies' Exchange Column.

Exchange notices of not more than forty words inserted free to subscribers only.

Minette M. Lowater, Rock Elm, Wis.—Has cheap books, mostly novels, to exchange for books or reading.

Mrs. Mary Talbott, Stockton, Kansas.—Will send twelve plants, three kinds of cacti, for remnants of lace, ribbon, or anything useful.

Mrs. George Moulton, Oceanus, I. L.—Has bound books, seaside novels and magazines to offer for cancelled United States postage stamps.

Alta L. L. Trons, Carl Junction, Mo.—Will exchange fancy articles or painting, for good ribbon (pale shades) China or surah silk.

PLAIN TALK.

PHILATELY.

ALVAH DAVISON, - - - - EDITOR,
176 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

Stamp Collecting.

HOW TO COLLECT FROM THE BEGINNING, UP.
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all about it.

The postage stamp at a first glance seems to be a very insignificant thing, but in these days that little one inch piece of paper is as powerful in its sphere as the greatest king on earth.

The postage stamp when properly attached to a letter, will carry it safely to the uttermost ends of the globe. The swiftest steamboats, the fastest railroads, the most enduring animals are engaged to carry it. The most perfect safeguards that human ingenuity can devise are thrown about it, and life itself will be sacrificed in order to protect the missives bearing that little stamp.

To send a letter to China through any other medium than by a stamp would cost many, many dollars, but by attaching this little piece of paper it will go anywhere for a few cents, while the power of governments will be lent it for protection. Isn't it a wonderful little thing when we look at it right?

Where is the boy who would not like to travel over the whole earth, gathering and keeping from each country, something which belonged to each place? Few of us can travel thus, but at a small expense we can collect the stamps from every clime, each bearing its own distinctive picture or wording, and forming when together, an exhibition pleasing to the eye, instructive to the mind, and description of the far away lands of which we delight to read.

A collection of postage stamps differs in an essential point from any other collection. Were you to collect minerals, coins, butterflies or anything else, it would require large space in which to keep them, but your stamps are all mounted in one book and a few moments is all that is necessary to find any country.

AS AN INSTRUCTOR.

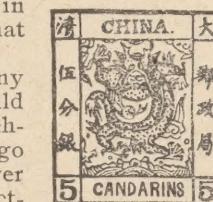
A collection of postage stamps will impart more knowledge to a boy in one week than he will get from his school books in many months, and do you ask why?

Because his collection is his toy, and all the knowledge he can gain from it is taken as a pleasure, whereas his books are considered a task.

He will learn all he can regarding his stamps because he is interested in them, and it is a pleasure to learn, and learning obtained in this manner is permanent.

Do you ask what can be learned from postage stamps? More than I could tell you in hours.

Nearly every new issue of postage stamps put out is issued for some reason. A new king on the throne; a revolution in progress;



a centennial of some great event; a jubilee. Of such events the collector learns through his stamps. This is history.

All civilized countries issue postage stamps and the collector becomes familiar with the location of each place, its principal cities, its climate, area, and many other points regarding each country. This is geography.

The styles of engraving, printing, kind of paper, how perforated, coats of arms, flags, names of the rulers and great men on the stamps, kinds of money used, postal arrangements between the different countries, this is general knowledge, in which the stamp collector will find that he far excels his elders. On the stamps of Egypt we find the ancient pyramids, on Turkey the star and crescent. China and Japan with their hieroglyphics, while England and her vast possessions portray the face of their honored queen.

On the United States stamps are seen the portraits of her great men from Washington to Grant; on Spain we gaze at her baby king. The designs in fact are so numerous as to present a panorama of notable facts, faces and events in the world's history.

AS A PASTIME.

The collecting of postage stamps, while being one of the most elevating and instructive pursuits, is still one which seems to eclipse everything else in the pleasure gained from it, and its immense growth is the best proof of this assertion.

Postage stamps were first used about fifty years ago, and since that time the number of collectors has increased, until now they are numbered by the hundreds of thousands, there being in our country alone from fifty to one-hundred thousand.

The pursuit is so fascinating that thousands have continued it from their boyhood days down through the prime of life, and they are more interested now than ever.

When a boy starts a stamp collection, he finds the pleasure so great, that he prefers it to all other pastimes, and thousands could testify to the absorbing interest it creates.

AS AN INVESTMENT.

All things that give pleasure require the expending of a little money, and in most cases this money once spent is gone forever, but in stamp collecting it is different.

The stamps which you buy now and from which you get so much pleasure, five years hence will probably be worth double their present value. This is because new stamps are issued and the old ones are always getting scarcer.

The set of stamps issued by the U. S. in 1870 could at that time be bought for 25cts, while the set is now worth nearly \$40. Thousands of other stamps increase in the same way.

Many boys have formed collections and years after have sold them for much more than they cost.

When a boy begins collecting he will often hunt up from old letters valuable stamps which he can either sell or trade for a large number of others. His friends will obtain stamps for him, and when he gets duplicates he can trade them for others, or by acting as agent for a stamp dealer he can earn enough money to pay for forming a fine collection.

Stamp collecting opens many ways in which a boy can earn money. It makes him brighter and gives him a knowledge of business methods which is of great value to him.



As an investment stamp collecting gives better returns than many a bank. The few pennies paid here and there for stamps are not missed, but in a short time the collection is worth many dollars, and it can be sold at any time.

Again the many stamps which a collector gets for nothing, and those which he obtains by trading, these amount to more in value than those which he buys. Once having started, it is surprising how fast a collection will grow both in numbers and value.

(To be continued.)



The American Numismatic Association.

*President, WILLIAM G. JERREMS, Jr., Chicago, Illinois.
Vice-President, JOSEPH HOOVER, Port Hope, Ontario.
Secretary, CHARLES T. TATMAN, Worcester, Massachusetts.
Treasurer, DAVID HARLOWE, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
Board of Trustees: C. W. STUTESMAN, Bunker Hill, Indiana; W. KELSEY HALL, Peterboro, Ontario; JOHN F. JONES, Jamestown, New York.
Board of Temporary Organization, GEORGE W. RODE, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania; J. A. HECKLEMAN, Cullom, Illinois; F. J. GRENNY, Brantford, Ontario.*

Communications intended for this department should be sent to the Secretary of the Association.

GEORGE F. HEATH, M. D., of Monroe, Michigan, was one of the first to suggest the establishment of a national society of coin collectors, and he publishes a monthly paper devoted entirely to his hobby. In the July issue of his paper, *The Numismatist*, Dr. Heath nominated the above list of officers to serve until the association can meet and elect permanent officers. PLAIN TALK was also nominated as official organ. Such a disjointed organization as the new society is at best an unwieldy affair to handle, and the setting into motion is necessarily a clumsy operation. But perhaps Dr. Heath's way is the best possible. Blank ballots have already been sent out to members for voting for temporary officers, and by our next issue doubtless all returns will be in. PLAIN TALK and its coin editor appreciate the compliments paid them, and promise their best efforts in behalf of the A. N. A. in case the above are chosen.

ASSOCIATION NEWS.

President Jerrems is deeply interested in the organization. He is at present in Colorado, but when he returns will (whoop'er-up) with Hustler Heath.

John F. Jones, of Jamestown, N. Y., writes that he is "certainly in favor of the organization, and will agree to any plan which well informed collectors will arrange."

The Milwaukee *Daily Journal* congratulates Mr. Harlowe upon his election as Treasurer of the A. N. A.

Mr. Daniel L. Emery, of Fall River, Mass., says in a personal letter to the Secretary: "I think the formation of a Numismatic Society would be a great boon to collecting, and would bring us together as a class. It would have a tendency to bring others into the field. Anything in my power to help form and keep up such a society, I will gladly do." Well spoken, friend Emery, may all others be as earnest!

The annual dues of the A. N. A. will probably be \$1.00, thus putting its benefits within the reach of all.

Why should I join?

1. Because I will help create fraternal ties among the individual collectors.

2. Because I will have a chance to increase my collection.

3. Because the Association will keep me posted on numismatic subjects.

4. Because I believe in numismatics as a diversion and as a study, and wish to spread its influence.

5. Because I am not an obscure backwoodsman, but an enlightened coin-collector.

The "twenty-five members" spoken of by the *Numismatist* have responded, and more too. It remains to be seen whether the "one-hundred before 1892" will materialize. We publish this month the names of the first twenty-five, and will continue from month to month as the names come in. All who join before Oct. 1st will be considered "charter members."

MEMBERS OF THE A. N. A.

1. George F. Heath, M. D., Monroe, Mich.
2. Charles T. Tatman, 93 Piedmont Street, Worcester, Mass.
3. Wm. G. Jerrems, Jr., Lakeside Building, Chicago, Ill.
4. C. W. Stutesman, Bunker Hill, Ind.
5. David Harlowe, 28 Mitchell Building, Milwaukee, Wis.
6. J. A. Heckleman, Cullom, Ill.
7. Mulford Jenkins, Rensselaerville, N. Y.
8. Farrar Ineson, Carlton West, Ont.
9. John F. Jones, 231 Steele St., Jamestown, N. Y.
10. W. Von Bergen, 89 Court Street, Boston, Mass.
11. A. W. Shaw, Jackson, Mich.
12. George W. Rode, Hazelwood Avenue, Pittsburg, Pa.
13. Lewis W. Lang, 401 W. Saratoga Street, Baltimore, Md.

14. Ed. Frossard, 787 Broadway, N. Y. City.
15. Daniel L. Emery, 22 County Street, Fall River, Mass.
16. J. A. Brudin, 534 W. 39th Street, N. Y. City.
17. F. C. Harper, Box 306, Barre, Ont.
18. W. Kelsey Hall, Box 443, Peterboro, Ont.
19. Charles G. Bailey, Central National Bank, Lynn, Mass.
20. John E. Morse, Mechanics Savings Bank, Worcester, Mass.
21. F. J. Grenny, Brantford, Ont.
22. William P. Potter, 68 Prospect Street, Norwich, Conn.
23. C. A. Hazlett, First National Bank, Portsmouth, N. H.
24. Louis D. Hopkins, Catskill, N. Y.
25. Joseph Hooper, Port Hope, Ont.

All paid up members of the A. N. A. will receive, at no further expense, *PLAIN TALK* and *The Numismatist*, as long as they are members of this Association.

The Virginia Half-Penny.

THE colony of Virginia never authorized the issue of any sort of coin. Yet there was struck in England a copper half-penny bearing the name of Virginia. This token has always been classed with the American colonial coins. It enjoys the distinction of being the only one of the State issues which bears a portrait labelled "George the Third." It is very unlikely that Virginia would have issued for herself a coin which perpetuated the memory of the great tyrant, and at so late a date as 1773 the "Old Dominion" would have been a little slow in putting the British coat of arms on her issues.



In Jefferson's Works (1782) the statement is made that "In Virginia, coppers have never been in use," and it is an historic fact that up to the time of federal coinage, copper coins were unknown in that State. Spanish dollars and other silver coins were cut into halves, quarters, etc. and the pieces, known in Richmond as "sharp-skins" took the place of small change.

A few specimens of the half-penny were struck in silver. The coins also appeared with the date 1774. The copper half-penny is somewhat scarce, but good specimens may be obtained at from thirty to fifty cents. There are some slight variations in the pieces, as "large and small planchets."

Designs for a New Coinage.

THE Director of the Mint sometime ago offered a prize of \$500 for the best designs for a new issue of United States coins. A large number of persons have competed, but no designs thus far received have been satisfactory. So no award has been made. About a dozen New York artists to whom invitations were sent urging them to try, have banded together, and, in a letter to the Mint officials, decline to attempt designs for coinage, making objections to several of the conditions of the contest. The most important of these, they say, is the smallness of the prize. Of course, Mr. St. Gaudens and company need not compete if they don't want to, but it is very small in artists of national reputation to decline to enter the contest because the money award isn't worth their time. Such men ought to consider it reward enough to have their designs accepted. They "could furnish acceptable designs of course, but really it's too small business, don't you know?" It is to be hoped that some poor man of artistic taste will produce something which will make his name famous throughout the nation.

ANSWERS TO QUERIES.

J. S. McQueen, Alfordsville, N. C.—The brass piece you describe is a German "Spiel Marke" or game counter, of no numismatic value.

H. L. I., Clarksville, Iowa.—When goods are sent on approval, each party usually pays expressage one way. This is fair for dealer and collector.

PLAIN TALK

• • PLAIN TALK • •

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PLAIN TALK will be stopped at expiration of subscription when the publishers are so requested, but *unless so requested* it will not be stopped. Subscribers will please note this fact. We have no desire to force the paper upon its readers, and a simple request to stop will be all that is necessary, but unless this request is received it will be continued.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Per line per insertion, 10 cents; per inch, \$1.00; per column, \$8.00. Space less than one column must be paid at inch rates; less than one inch at line rates. Ten per cent. discount for six months; 20 per cent. for one year. Rates invariable and all advertisements subject to approval.

Entered as second-class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post Office.

NEW YORK, AUGUST, 1891.

THE "word-hunt" contests are being sharply contested these months, but there will be "room at the head" for earnest workers. Look up the announcements, and send in the lists.

SUBSCRIBERS sending in exchange notices must remember that all such matters must be in hand on or before the 15th of the month. Prominence is given to this announcement because some seem to misunderstand the matter.

SOME contemplated and quite important improvements in PLAIN TALK could be carried into effect on a doubled subscription list. It would require very little effort on the part of each subscriber to secure one new reader. Will not each one make the attempt?

Plain Talks.

BY REV. F. H. PALMER.

IN beginning a short series of plain talks on practical subjects to the readers of PLAIN TALK the writer would disclaim any desire or intention to "preach," or "lecture," or indulge in cant. He wishes simply to have some good, frank, straightforward plain talks with young people about common faults and virtues, that by thinking together of these things we may the more clearly see the reasons for avoiding the former and for choosing the latter, and so grow the more strongly and rapidly toward a true and noble life. He would adopt as a cardinal principle in all these plain talks a rule which stated itself at the point of his pen recently, in a letter to a friend on a controverted point in philosophy, as follows: "As a minister of Christ I will ask no man to accept anything for which good evidence cannot be adduced, which shall appeal to and convince his reason." He would therefore freely invite anyone who may question any statement which he may make, or desire a fuller showing of the reasons for it, to address him, care Publisher of PLAIN TALK.

I.

ON TAKING HOLD OF LIFE.

PROBABLY more lives fail of high usefulness, happiness, and success because of *aimlessness* than from any other cause. The majority of young people in a land like our own are not positively wicked and bad. A real bad boy or girl

is, happily, a rare exception, all the more noticeable because so rare. But there are a great many people in the world, young and old, who have never taken any strong grip of life; and it is an open question which is preferable,—a positive, vigorous character which sometimes goes wrong, or a mild nature that never does very heartily what is right? Either extreme is to be avoided. But I would rather have a boy of mine do wrong sometimes, and be sorry for it, than to have him never do wrong for want of energy to do either wrong or right. Laziness and indifference are high up in the list of the vices that are ruining the world. Their opposites, energy, application, vigor, push, are the virtues that are giving the leaders in the business and professional world their success. A little careful thought and determined effort will enable any of us to improve our chances in this respect. Let us not for the want of such effort drift through the world without accomplishing any high end in life.

We should first of all get a clear conception of what we ourselves are; and then we should look outside of ourselves to our environment, or surroundings; whereupon the question will inevitably suggest itself, *Why am I here?* I believe that any young person who will seriously propose to himself these questions, and seek their true answer, will thereupon cease to drift, and to be buffeted about on the winds of chance and the waves of fortune, and will have taken a long and strong step on the path to positive success. He will have begun an intellectual, and ceased to live a merely animal life. He will have lifted himself out of the realm of the merely material, and instead of being inert matter to be acted upon, he will have become an agent qualified to act, and capable of shaping things according to his own sovereign will. This is man's highest prerogative. This is that which allies him to God.

My space will allow of only a hint looking to the answer to the questions raised. What are we? We are first physical—we have wonderful bodies, with marvellous capabilities of growth and development, and with many intricate laws and relations, bodies that may become splendid instruments of happiness and good, or that may be a curse and a clog to self and others all through life. We are, again, intellectual—we have minds, with a capacity for indefinite expansion and cultivation, which we may feed with God's truth or begot with the Devil's errors all through our earthly experience. We are, still again, spiritual—with inner natures capable of love, and virtue, unselfishness, and devotion to a personal God.

What is our environment? We are in a world in which we are surrounded with other beings like and unlike ourselves, and in which we are confronted on every hand by laws in dealing with which we find the opportunity for the exercise of all our faculties, and for growth and improvement in all the different directions in which our natures are capable of growth. Why are we here? Obviously to grow, and to help others to grow; that is, to form and develop strong, noble characters, the inevitable result of which will be happiness and good, to self and others, here and hereafter. A body to care for, a mind to educate, a will to consecrate and enthrone as sovereign over all base and selfish desires; whoever catches a clear sight of the real meaning of life thus, will no longer idly drift, or heedlessly wander through the world, but will take hold and set earnestly to work that he may make the most of himself; and such an one will inevitably win success and honor, and make himself a leader among men.

Mozart.

IN THE February issue of this paper a prize was offered for the best sketch of the life of Mozart. The following sketches are the best three received, and instead of awarding the prize ourselves we ask our subscribers to decide the matter for us. In this way: Let each subscriber who wishes to do so send us a postal card naming his or her choice as to the respective merits of the papers. On August 15th the prize will be awarded in accordance with these postal cards, and the subscriber who first (due allowance being made for distance) sends us the list in the exact order that the majority vote will also receive a handsome book.

BY P. F. W.

JOHANN Chrysostom Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, one of the greatest of modern composers, was born at Salzburg, January 27th, 1756. While only three years old he showed a great taste for music. At the age of four years he began taking music lessons on the harpsichord, under the direction of his father, Leopold Mozart. To show his love for music, it may be said that he became so fond of it, that it took the place of the usual amusements of childhood. While at the age of six years he composed some small pieces, and his father, who had taught him his lessons only in fun, now began to get interested in his actions, and took him and his ten year old sister, Anna Maria, on a journey through Europe to exhibit their wonderful powers. The journey was successful as the children's performances were so well executed, that experts who had spent a life at that business could have done no better. They played for the Austrian Emperor, Francis I, at Vienna. Little Mozart now returned to Salzburg. The next year the family made another tour through Germany and France gaining for little Wolfgang a continental reputation. After the age of eight years he composed almost as much as he played. His next four or five years were passed in different parts of Europe, and in his twelfth year he composed an opera for the Emperor Joseph II. He then went to Italy where he was received with great admiration.

Here he wrote the whole of his famous piece "Sistine Miserere" from memory; also, an opera which was performed at Milan for twenty nights in succession. He was honored everywhere he went by orders, titles, etc. He returned to Salzburg in 1771, but 1779, found him in Vienna. He was then 23 years old having passed through a childhood the most remarkable that child ever lived.

He had the whole of Europe in which to make his fortune but he remained in Vienna for a time, composing several pieces. He was by nature lazy, unless seized by some inspiration, and on one occasion he was to write something for a court concert, but delayed it so long that he barely had time to write the other players' parts, leaving for himself the empty lines. He however played by memory so well that it was noticed by none except those who saw the book without notes. Among his most noted pieces are "The Marriage of Figaro" and "Don Giovanni."

Mozart in appearance was small and delicate, slim, but rather more corpulent in the last years of his life. Though he had a pale face, it was pleasant, and plainly showed his character. In 1872 he was married to Constanza Weber.

Mozart was unhappy while he was not composing, and so he worked too hard and after an illness of two weeks he died December 5, 1791, having a whole nation for his friends.

BY H. L. E.

THE greatest composer in the world, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, was born at Salzburg, January 27th, 1756. Mozart was very young when he first showed his love for music. He gained much knowledge of music by listening to the lessons given to his sister.

When but four years old, he played with much expression and composed minuets and small pieces.

Mozart, when six years of age, accompanied his father, Leopold Mozart, to Munich and Vienna. In both places his playing attracted much attention and admiration. Mozart was given a small violin by his father, and learned to play by himself.

In 1763, Mozart again went on a journey with his father,

and stopped at most of the important cities of Europe. On his return, he studied composition for a few months under his father, and his classical models were Handel, Bach, and some of the best Italian masters. In 1767, Leopold and Mozart went to Vienna for a year hoping to improve their fortunes. The Emperor, astonished at Mozart's genius, bantered him to compose a libretto, which he did after much difficulty, and at the command of his father who took the Emperor's jest as a command. This piqued the Italian court musicians, and they commenced their petty annoyances that later so marred Mozart's life. The Mozarts finally left here and travelled through Italy.

At Mantua, 1770, he gave a wonderful concert, too lengthy to be described here. On his return from this tour, which was a success, he was appointed court organist to the Archbishop of Salzburg. In 1780, he went to Munich to write the opera "Idomeneo" for Prince Charles Theodore of Bavaria. The beauty and originality of this earned him even more than his usual praises.

Mozart resigned his office as court organist, because the Archbishop treated him as he treated his servants. So Mozart began giving music lessons in Vienna for his living.

In 1872, he married Constance Weber, who added much comfort and happiness to his life.

After composing the "L'Enlevement du Serail," the Emperor, Joseph II, gave him the office of court composer, with a salary of 800 florins; but the office proved a sinecure, and to support his family, he gave lessons, wrote waltzes, and gave concerts.

"Don Giovanni" was written in 1787 for the people of Prague for their warm appreciation of Mozart.

In 1788, his lungs and nerves became diseased, and he wrote to escape melancholy. A mysterious person engaged him to write a requiem, without giving him any information as to whom it was for.

This mystery and his melancholy made him think he was writing his own funeral service. His health kept failing, and in the year 1791, he wrote, "Die Zauberflöte," "La Clemenza di Tito," and the requiem for himself.

On a dismal day in December, 1791, Mozart was buried, (without being followed by a single friend), in the common burying ground of the poor at Vienna, and his grave is now unknown.

BY S. H. R.

JOHANN Chrysostom Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, born in Salzburg, January 27th, 1756, was one of the greatest composers that the earth ever produced. His father, Leopold Mozart, was the son of a bookbinder at Augsburg. He studied at Salzburg, and in 1762, was admitted as one of the musicians of the Prince Archbishop of Salzburg, and taught the violin and musical composition; he also published an instruction book on the violin.

He married Anne Maria Pertl; a lady of beauty and of kindness. Seven children were the fruits of this union and from these, two only survived, one, a girl named Mary Anne, and a boy in whose memory and honor this article is inscribed.

This son, being three years of age his father taught him and his sister, then seven years, upon the harpsichord and, from that period, Mozart showed the most remarkable talents for music. He also showed a talent for languages and mathematics. While learning arithmetic, the chairs, floors, and even the walls were scratched up with figures.

His greatest delight was to pick out the thirds on the harpsichord. His extraordinary talents were cultivated by his father with the utmost care. At the age of four he learned almost voluntary to play the harpsichord and even at that young age he composed a few pieces. He was very affectionate to all his friends and would say, "Do you love me?" and if in joke they would say, "No," he would burst in tears. His sister also possessed similar talents, and when Mozart was at the age of six, he and his sister played so well that their father took them to Munich. He was presented to the Imperial Court, and upon being wagered by the Emperor, he played with a veil over the keys so that he could not see them.

While at England, he once sat in the lap of a pianist who played a few bars and the boy would repeat them with

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such exactness that the people thought that it was the same player.

I will illustrate how he could remember the pitch. He once played on a friend's violin and asked, "Why did you not leave me your violin turned to the same pitch as it was the last time I used it? It is a half a quarter of a tone lower than this one of mine." In 1763 and 1764, Mozart visited Paris and London.

While he was at the age of thirteen, he was appointed Director of the Prince Archbishop of Salzburg's concerts. He now went to Italy where he received many compliments from his admirers. In 1779, he was appointed composer of the Imperial Court at Vienna, where he fixed his residence. He died in 1791, at the age of 35.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF VETERANS DEPARTMENT.

This department is devoted to the interests and welfare of the Sons of Veterans and Ladies' Aid Societies of the United States of America. Edited by Edgar D. Melville, (of Camp 239, Penna. Div., S. V., U. S. A.) 925 Union Street, Chester, Pa., to whom all communications relating to this department should be sent.

OURS is a noble land, "The Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave."

This is indeed a patriotic sentiment, and worthy of the deepest thought and reverence.

More than a quarter of a century ago, when the interests of the United States were assailed by those in our midst who sought to rule on an unfair basis, it was then that the country's faithful upholders in right, prepared themselves for the darkening cloud of unloyalty, and here is the result of the bloody conflict that ensued, in a nut-shell. They bravely fought for right, and they came out victorious. Is the memory of this high example of patriotism to be allowed to fade away? Is this sentiment of heroic enthusiasm to be lost?

No! Never! It will go down to future ages as an example of true patriotism.

The Sons of Veterans organization, and the Ladies' Aid Societies of the Sons of Veterans, who are doing so much to assist the comrades who have been spared us, are fostering the memory, so worthy of preservation.

And in the future, when the comrades will have all passed away, it will be then that their sons and daughters, who have banded together for the purpose of perpetuating their memories, will be most instrumental in carrying out the example of true patriotism, that was shown so loyally during the days of the dark rebellion.

E. D. M.

PENNSYLVANIA—DELAWARE COUNTY.

On Friday evening, June 19th, Elias B. Eckfeldt Camp, No. 239, elected Edgar D. Melville as Captain, vice John L. Van Tine, resigned.

Louis H. Eaves, Picket Guard of Camp 239, arrived at Man's Estate on July 3rd, and in celebration of the event a party was given at his residence in the evening, and a pleasant time was experienced by those who participated in the affair. Members of Eckfeldt Camp, the Ladies' Aid Society, No. 26, and visitors from Garfield Camp, No. 2, of Wilmington, Delaware, were present and helped to make the affair enjoyable. Louis received quite a number of presents, in response to which he made an appropriate speech.

A nine from Garfield Camp, and a nine from Eckfeldt Camp played a game of base ball on the morning of July 4th, in Chester. Score—Garfield, 4; Eckfeldt, 3.

PENNSYLVANIA LADIES' AIDS—AID 16, OF CHESTER, PENNSYLVANIA.

On Tuesday evening, June 30th, Mrs. Ada L. Shannon, President of the Pennsylvania Ladies' Aid Societies, installed the followed named officers of Aid 16: President, Mrs. Annie H. Deamer; Vice-President, Mrs. Lizzie Guthrie; Board of Trustees, one member to fill a vacancy, Mrs. Mary Wheatley; Chaplain, Miss Mary Seamen. During the evening Division Councilman Charles C. Morton, of Anna M. Ross Camp, No. 1, of Philadelphia, Pa., who was present, delivered an eloquent address relating to the Order in general. Brother Morton shows the right spirit, and the advice he gave should be well taken.

Sister Deamer was elected President in place of Mrs. Sarah T. Van Tine, resigned.

BUGLE NOTES.

A handsome silver spoon was presented to W. J. Alexander, for his infant son, on Tuesday, June 2nd, by Past Captain Joseph E. Quinby, of Captain Isaac Johnson Camp, No. 18, of Media, Pa.

General Judson Kilpatrick Camp, No. 233, of Easton, Pa., turned out and paraded forty members at the recent reunion of the Eleventh New Jersey Volunteers, held at Philipsburg, N. J.

Past Captain William L. Mathues, of Captain Isaac Johnson Camp, No. 18, of Media, Delaware County, Pa., is a candidate for Prothonotary Clerk of Quarter Sessions and Oyer and Terminer, of Delaware County.

The General D. B. Birney Camp, No. 13, of Philadelphia, Pa., has become attached to Captain Walter S. Newhall Post, No. 9, of the same city.

NEW CAMPS FORMED.

The following new Camps have been lately mustered in the Pennsylvania Division:

McGuire Camp, No. 291, Delaney, Cambria County, 12 recruits, by Past Musterer Officer William H. Keirn; Captain, Harry Norris.

Captain David Mills Camp, No. 293, at Gallitzin, Cambria County, 29 recruits, by Captain F. C. George, Camp No. 32; Captain, F. A. Spires.

Corporal Oscar C. Smith Camp, No. 294, Jermyn, Lackawana County, 15 recruits, by Past Captain F. W. Martin, Camp 8; Captain Walter Snyder.

Corporal Weaver Camp, No. 296, Hellertown, Northampton County, 21 recruits, by Lieutenant-Colonel J. H. Kresge; Captain, William H. Unangst.

In a recent letter received from Second Lieutenant A. Wesley Weikel, of John A. Koltes Camp, No. 228, of Philadelphia, Pa., by the editor of this department, he states:

"In my estimation there never has been enough outside interest shown toward the Sons of Veterans. This is a step in the right direction. Let the good work go on. Let the press devote space to us as they do to others, and by the earnest work of the Brothers we can soon be where we—with the G. A. R.—belong, 'at the top of the heap,' recognized and respected by all good loyal people."

LADIES' AID SOCIETY OF CAMP 228.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Although not connected with the Pennsylvania L. A. S., the Ladies' Aid of the General John A. Koltes Camp, No. 228, Division of Pennsylvania, Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., is one of the best, not only in Pennsylvania, but in the United States.

Having a membership numbering in the hundreds, of good earnest workers, they are in position to, and do, give more substantial aid to Camp 228, than most Camps would think of receiving, much less receive of an Aid. A good illustration of this fact was given a short time ago, when they presented the Camp, through the Recruiting Committee, with a handsome State flag (which was carried by the Camp for the first time on Decoration Day), the cost of which was nearly two hundred dollars, (\$200.00), but which the Brothers of Camp 228 would not part with for many times that amount.

Captain Albert N. Schickle, assisted by the Advisory Board, (appointed Wednesday evening, July 1st, to serve for six months), consisting of Color Sergeant David R. Simons, chairman, First Lieutenant Pro tem Harry Snyder, Second Lieutenant A. Wesley Weikel, Chaplain Harry Knoll, Jr., and Brother John Kruger, last evening installed the newly elected officers of the Aid as follows:

President, Mrs. Ella Reese.
Vice-President, Miss Emma Reihn.
Chaplain, Miss Lena Chester.
Secretary, Miss Rose Young.
Treasurer, Miss Ella Kirchner.
Conductress, Miss Carrie Bretzlin.
Junior Conductress, Miss Mary Wagner.
Inside Guard, Miss Katie Bernhardt.
Outside Guard, Miss Sallie Pomeroy.

The following Aides were appointed :

For President, { Miss Thresa Miller.
 { Miss Mary Neal.
 For Vice President, { Miss Clara Breitinger.
 { Miss Lou Wolfinger.

Speeches were made by Mrs. Eck, (*nee* Koltes, daughter of the General after who the Camp was named), who is a Past President of the Aid, Captain Albert N. Schickle, Chairman of the Advisory Board, David R. Simons, and others.

After the installation ceremonies the members of the Advisory Board were very agreeably surprised by being invited into the banquet hall where an excellent collation was spread. After doing justice to the ice cream and other delicacies, the balance of the evening was spent in a highly enjoyable manner, and I can safely say that all went away well pleased with the time spent there.

It was the writer's intention to give an account of the three day's trip to Colmar—two stations above Lansdale—made by the Guards of General John A. Koltes Camp, No. 228, accompanied by some of the Camp members, to visit the Firing Guard of General John A. Koltes Post, No. 228, who were encamped at that place on the 3rd, 4th and 5th of July, but owing to his inability to be there himself, and being unable to get the facts obtainable in presentable shape at this writing, will only state that all who were along are unanimous in saying that they had a splendid time.

Yours in F., C. and L.,
 A. WESLEY WEIKEL,
 Second Lieutenant, Camp 228.

Department of Connecticut Sons of Veterans.

Edited by Rollin T. Toms, Stamford, Conn., (of Camp 49, Connecticut Division, S. V., U. S. A.) to whom all communications from Connecticut camps should be sent.

THE strength of the Connecticut Division Sons of Veterans, U. S. A., April 1st, 1891, was 925 members. There have been forty-nine camps organized; seventeen have disbanded, leaving thirty-two active camps.

Connecticut Sons of Veterans, though we are small in numbers there is good material in us; therefore let us stay no longer in the rear but come forward, let each son work for this grand order, and may it be but a short time before Connecticut will be among the front ranks. The ranks of the brave old Veterans are breaking fast and soon many more will have answered to the bugle call on the other side. Who, then, will care for the old Veterans who suffered so much, who left their home and their trade that we might be free? Who will decorate their graves and commemorate their history? It is you and I who must do all this, and are we preparing for it? Are you who are Sons of Veterans and do not belong to our camp doing all you can to aid the veteran in distress and caring for their widows and orphans?

I ask you as a son of a veteran to join with us at once. Let us grasp hands together and work with each other, for united we will be strong, but if parted we shall be weak. Let each brother bring in another member and thereby double our numbers.

The publishers have kindly given us a department in PLAIN TALK for our free use, let each camp take advantage of this offer and send in brief articles of interest concerning their camp; this will be a great help to our order, and all Sons of Veterans should subscribe at once for PLAIN TALK.

Connecticut Correspondence.

ALDEN SKINNER Camp No. 45, located at Rockville, a thriving camp of thirty-seven members, was very pleasantly entertained by Camp 49, of Stafford Springs, on the 16th of June. Burpee Post No. 71, and W. R. C. No. 11, went with them and all had a very good time. Camp 45 wishes to say that if you want to have a good time then go over to Stafford and you are sure to get it.

Camp 45 was mustered in the Division on the 7th of May, 1890, by Colonel Wessells, and the success of the camp is more than was expected in so short a time, and I can say that the secret of it is the hearty co-operation of all its members, and Brothers that is what a camp must have. Give the Captain all the aid that you can, attend all the meetings and you are sure to succeed. We have one application on the table and two more will go in next meeting night. All visiting Brothers are invited to attend.

Rockville, Conn.

L. S. CHAPMAN, Capt.

COLONEL Edward Anderson Camp, No. 48, was "mustered in" April 20, 1891, with seventeen charter members. The name was selected in honor of the Rev. Edward Anderson, pastor of the Westfield Congregationalist Church, of this place. Mr. Anderson was a Colonel of Cavalry in an Indiana Regiment during the late war and performed distinguished service for the Union. Since the closing of the war he has taken an active interest in G. A. R. work, and has always been among the foremost in labor for the advancement of all measures benefiting those who fought to preserve our loved land. He is Past-Chaplain-in-Chief of the G. A. R. He is also an enthusiastic supporter of the order of Sons of Veterans and takes much pride and interest in the Camp which bears his name; so much so that immediately after organization he ordered a stand of colors for us, which was formally presented upon the evening of May 27th, Congressman Charles Russell, Colonel Barbee, Commanding Division of Connecticut; Past Colonel Theodore A. Barton, of Division of Rhode Island, and other distinguished friends of the order being present and participating in the exercises attending the presentation.

At a meeting of the Camp just eight days before Memorial Sunday, a uniform was decided upon and on Memorial Sunday every member of the Camp attended church in full uniform. On Memorial Day, with the addition of a few members of Camp 47, of Dayville, the camp paraded twenty-four men. Though small in numbers we have excellent material and do not expect to rank second to any camp in the Division. The average age of our membership is about twenty-six years. We have a number of applications coming in right away, and I fully expect to see the membership doubled before the end of the present year. At the last meeting of the Camp it was unanimously voted to present the beautiful Military drama of "Newbern, or the Old Flag," early in September. At the next meeting the committee will be appointed and date made, parts assigned and active work begun at once. The Captain of the camp believes that in order to have a live, successful camp there must be something of interest continually before the boys and the coming two months are trying times for any order or organization, and yet we have the uttermost confidence that our average attendance will be just as good as during our first two months of existence. Any "Sons" visiting this place will be cordially welcomed if they will make themselves known.

We meet every Thursday night and our latch string is always out.

GEO. E. COMAN,

Danielsonville, Conn.

JOHN M. SIMMS Camp, No. 49, was mustered in May 22nd, 1891, with seventeen charter members. The boys are in earnest this time and nothing but success can follow. On the 19th of June they gave a strawberry festival by which they cleared fifty dollars. The G. A. R. and W. R. C. of this city kindly lent a helping hand.

John M. Simms Camp, No. 2, disbanded several years ago, the trouble being that they hadn't the right material. Camp 49 will profit by their experience and steer clear of those who should never be allowed to wear our honored badge. Such persons who call themselves Sons of Veterans, should be ashamed, they are a disgrace to our noble order. As camp 49 is a new camp and the work is still new to the boys, they would be very much pleased to receive visits from other Camps.

R. T. TOMS, *Aid on Col's Staff.*

Stamford, Conn.

TAKE a Kodak with you. The summer vacation will be rendered much pleasanter, and you can bring home many a lasting memento of your outing. Take a Kodak with you.

ONCE more the publishers wish to call attention to the book offers made on another page. An opportunity is opened for all our boys or girls to add many desirable volumes to their libraries.

PLEASE discontinue my Notice in Exchange Columns of PLAIN TALK, as I have disposed of my articles, and find your paper to be a valuable one for exchangers use.—G. D. H., New Castle, Pa.

NATURAL HISTORY.

Contributions to this department are solicited from all readers. Questions will be answered by competent authorities.

There's a Poet Among Us!

THAT good friend of all who study the ways of birds, Oliver Davie, of Columbus, Ohio, is a poet as well as a naturalist. The following is one of his productions:

TO ROBERT BURNS DAVIE, MY YOUNGEST SON,
On his Birthday, June 24, 1890.

Noo, Rabbie, lad, ye'r twa year auld ;
If nature gaes na wrang
I prophesy that ye will live
Much langer than my sang.

Life's road is often lang and rough,
An' if ye would survive,
Ye'll sing just like ye'r name-sake, Rab,
To keep ye'r name alive.

'Twas he who sang by bonnie Doon,
Wi' something mair than art ;
He touched the key-note o' a tune
In every human heart.

He sang the loves o' a' mankind
In sweet poetic numbers,
And ay the world will read his name
In *Auld Time's* burning embers.

O may ye hae his magic muse ;
Wi' gifts immortal shine
And be unto thy native land
The minstrel, bard divine.

Ye'll hae na bonnie Doon to sing,
Nor yet sweet Afton Water ;
But then thy muse may lift her wing
O'er some fond mother's daughter.

O may she hae the love fu' warm
That's due fra aye another,
O' may she hae the face and form
O' thy angelic mother.

Then life's hill, lad, ye twa will climb ;
Your steps the years will number,
'Till on the ither side ye'll rest
In that lang, peaceful slumber.

Conjugal love the world o'er
Is man's ain blest dominion,
And matrimony's holy bond
Preserves our social union.

Ye'll find the scenes o' life will change,
Ye'll often doubt and fear ;
Maybe ye'll hae to let that gae
To which ye haud maist dear.

No, while I offer counsel, Rab,
I'll no lang on it dwell ;
There's mony a word o' truth, my lad,
I'd better heed mysel.

It's na richt ay to speak the faults
That we can see in ither,
Specially as each has his ain
And a' mankind are brithers.

So ye will hae to tak your choice,
I'll set your mind at ease ;
Ye'll heed your father's guid advice
Or do just as ye please.

There's muuckle I could say, my lad ;
'Twad mak ye melancholy,
How sma' the virtue, great the vice
O' human nature's folly.

There's some wi' gear appear to shine
Amang their fellow mortals
And think they find true happiness
At wealth's ain gilded portals.

But wealth is not the key profound
To happiness refined,
For only in contentment's found
The glory o' the mind.

There's ae thing lad I'd hae ye mind,
If ye'd be leal and true.
Let not deceit's auld gauzy lace
Hide onything from view.

Beware o' a' unco guid
Wha wear a sober face,
The deil gies them a priestly robe
To hide their ain disgrace.

There's some wha never blush wi' shame
While their lying tongue's in motion.
Ye'll find them devils while at hame,
But angels in devotion.

Thus at religion's golden crown
The scoffer's darts are thrust ;
Thus oft her pure and spotless gown
Is trampled in the dust.

And thus beneath the church's veil
Some hide their daily sin ;
Oft those without look in wi' doubt,
And fear to enter in.

O, Robbie dear, what e'er you be,
In this world's waukin dream ;
Shun bearded, bald hypocrisy,
Add be just what ye seem.

There's mony a jewel rich and rare,
Wi' which men would na part,
But honesty's the gem by far,
The jewel o' the heart.

The Prize Crow Essays.

IT HAS been decided to award two prizes in the "Crow essays," and one is therefore given to E. S. Burkhard, 179 McAdoo Ave., Jersey City, N. J.; and the other to "Louis Alvin," Louis A. Hennick, Jr., Baltimore City College, Baltimore, Md. The first-named winner is a lad of fifteen years and his essay bears more strongly the marks of personal observation than does Mr. Hennick's, which is more "bookish" in its make-up. Both essays are given in full below:

I

THE crow is a well known and destructive bird in this state. He is of a beautiful blue-black color, has a long, strong bill, slightly curved at the end; long, spreading toes, and broad wings measuring from about two feet six to three feet three inches from tip to tip. He steps along in a very awkward, comical manner and watches everything furtively.

The crows may be seen the year round, but more plentifully in the autumn, when they may be seen in large flocks settling down in the woods at night. They grow scarcer as spring advances, mate in March and April, and may be seen in pairs until June or July, when the young leave the nest, and they go together in small flocks. They are early risers and may be seen early in the morning feeding in the low lands and freshly ploughed meadows.

In the summer they have good living, eating the corn as soon as it is dropped, digging it up if necessary, and as soon as it sprouts out of the ground they pull it up and eat the kernel off. In the autumn they strip the husk off the ear and pick out the ripe kernels and sometimes take away the ear complete. A flock of ten or fifteen crows will do more damage to a crop of corn than could be imagined. In the winter they live on roots, seeds, acorns, and the fish and other particles washed up by the tide. They also rob the wood-pecker and high-hole, or cleap of their stores of acorns stowed away in the rotten wood and holes of trees. In the spring they get plenty of worms.

They begin to build in the second week in April. The nest is situated, generally, in a small tree in the woods about thirty or forty feet from the ground, and is made of

sticks five or six inches long, interwoven with grass and grape-vine bark.

The eggs are about as large as a bantam's, only a little longer and more oval, and are of a light green color, streaked with a slightly darker green and blotched with a dark brown. Some are thickly covered with dark streaks and blotches, and some have hardly any.

The young appear during June, and don't leave the nest until they are driven out by the old birds, or are left to look out for themselves. They are very awkward looking birds and completely fill the nest, although the parent birds make it larger as they grow. The young join the parent birds, as soon as they commence to fly, and the family immediately proceed to devastate the neighboring cornfield.

If a person has a place to keep a crow, a young crow, they can't get a more comical, dirty or disgusting pet. Taken as a whole the crow is a wise, cunning, comical, and destructive bird, one of his favorite pursuits being destroying other birds' eggs.

E. S. BURKHARD.

II.

THE birds which constitute the crows (*Corvidæ*) are divided into four groups, namely: The crows properly so called, pies, jays, and nutcrackers. The crows are characterized by a very strong beak with cutting edges, broad at its base, flattened laterally, and hooked toward the point; the nostrils covered with stiff feathers; also by strong claws, and long pointed wings. The genus *corvus*, as limited by modern naturalists, comprehends the Raven, the carrion crow, the hooded crow, the rook, the jackdaw, great-billed crow, Phillipine crow, and fish crow. All these species have in many respects the characteristics, the same aptitude, and the same habits.

With the exception of the raven and magpie, which live in pairs, the others reside in companies, whether they are in quest of their daily food or roosting for the night. They are all possessed of intelligence, cunning, mischievous habits, the gift of imitation, though in different degrees, and the same provident habit of amassing provisions in secret places. This last peculiarity in the tamed birds degenerates into a perfect mania, which leads them to carry off and hide everything that attracts or pleases their eye, especially gems and bright articles of metal. The whole group are susceptible of domestication.

The crows, especially the raven and carrion crow, are pre-eminently omnivorous. Living or dead flesh, insects, fruit, seed, nothing comes amiss to their palate. Their depredations are consequently enormous. Ravens frequently enter poultry yards and carry off young chickens and ducklings. All crows delight in digging up newly sown ground, eating with avidity the germinating seed. The flesh of the raven and carrion crow exhales a disagreeable smell, doubtless caused by the quantities of putrid animal matter they consume, and consequently it is unfit for human food. The rook, however, when taken young, is not only eatable, but by some is considered a delicacy.

Crows possess a vigorous and sustained flight and have a keen sense of smell and excellent vision. Their plumage being of a sombre, funeral black, and their voice is unmusical, have doubtless been the reason why they have long been considered birds of ill omen. When taken young, they are tamed with great facility, for they will neither rejoin their own race nor desert the neighborhood where they have been kindly treated. They become very much attached to those who are kind to them. They choose secret places, where they store up all that tempts their cupidity or excites their covetousness. They even learn to repeat words and phrases, and to imitate the cries of other animals. These facts are confirmed by numerous anecdotes related by persons of undoubted veracity. Crows are universally diffused over the globe. The raven (*corvus corax*) and the carrion crow (*corvus corone*) are sedentary birds, and never voluntarily abandon the place they have erected as their home. The rook (*corvus monedula*) only visit the countries of southern Europe on the approach of winter. The hooded crow (*c. cornix*) inhabits mountainous Europe, and the plains in summer. It is solitary in its habits. The Senegal crow (*c. senegalensis*) is confined to Africa. The great billed crow (*c. crassirostris*) is a native of Abyssinia, the handsome Phillip-

pine crow (*c. sinesis*) to a group of islands after which it is named, while the fish crow (*c. ossifragus*), which is about the size of a jackdaw, is confined to America.

LOUIS ALVIN.

A Frolic in the "Cotton State."

WHILE I was living in Mississippi, my neighbor, Mrs. M., invited my two children and myself to go with her to visit her old home in the country, about twenty miles-distant. We gladly accepted, for the prospect of dewberrying and a pic-nic on Bayou Pierre was very inviting. Eleven of us, for the pretty little widow had six wide-awake children of her own, tumbled into a big wagon drawn by two powerful mules, managed by a stalwart young driver, just as the sun lifted his rosy, round face above the horizon, to see if the sleepy old world was ready for him. On we went merrily past Lowe's Wells, up hill and down dale, through the swamp, and past the old graveyard heavily draped in Spanish moss, while nowhere else, for miles around, was there any more to be seen. This was told to me, with a suspicion of superstition in the tone, by a lady whose family stands with the first in the state.

Going down one steep hill, the road lay between glistening ramparts of sandstone, a sight new to me, though I had travelled North, South, East and West.

Ere we reached the Bayou, we passed gently rolling ground, crowned, here and there, by isolated broad-spreading beeches, while our Southern queen, the sweet magnolia tree "waved its white snowy blossoms on the merry, laughing breeze." At the Bayou we found luscious dewberries in abundance, spread our inviting lunch on God's big table, enjoyed the *dolce far niente*, while we "listened to 'Nature's harlequin,' the mocking bird," as we had been told in song, to do, lo these many years! varied now and then by the operatic *grand finale* of the cane thrush.

And then we went with a zest into the work which had been to me the main inducement of my outing—the gathering of petrifications.

As, from my childhood, I had noticed the grain of different woods in my Louisiana country home, it was easy for me to recognize beech, cottonwood, and other varieties, which had been turned to cold heavy stone, by what process—who can tell? You might say by the chemical properties of the waters of the bayou, but there on the hillside far above the reach of a freshet, lay the trunk of a large beech, perfectly petrified. There were geodes, too, and agates. Our negro driver led his mules, already hitched to the wagon, to the bayou bank, and in an instant the legs, and half of the body of one of them were submerged in quicksand, and wagon, mules, and all, might have gone under, but for the prompt exertions of the driver. (Such things have happened).

If the Editor will say the word I may write something about the curiosities in my little cabinet, sometime, but if he "would rather be silent, his silence I'll take for consent."

I forgot to say that we found genuine birch trees which, having doffed their russet ulsters, stood dressed in virgin white. This is by no means a common tree so far south.

Homeward bound, we stopped at the house of a lady with tastes like unto my own, and she took me, a perfect stranger, over her lovely garden, gave me roots and cuttings, and a beautiful geode, thereby winning my heart completely.

MRS. E. E. INSLEE.

Blue Cranes Nest in the Willow.

LONG the sloughs near Buena Vista Lake there are, just at this time, multitudes of blue cranes sitting on nests of eggs. The eggs are about equal in size to those of a turkey, of blueish tint and spotted. The crane invariably selects a willow tree, the lower part of which is under water—and there are abundance of such at this time of the year—as if its instinct taught it to guard against predatory land animals. In the topmost limb it builds of sticks a loosely woven nest, about eighteen inches in diameter, and in that it composes its long legs and curious body to the patient duty of hatching out the twin eggs. Does anyone know how long it takes for crane chicks to appear?

[A prize of one of our "Best Books" to the subscriber who sends us, before Sept. 1, the best essay, of not more than 300 words, on the crane.]

PLAIN TALK.

GAMES AND PASTIMES.

Contributions for this department are solicited in regard to every variety of indoor and outdoor amusement.

The Type-Writer Contest.

AFTER two months of excellent work on the part of the subscribers to PLAIN TALK, the suspense is over, and the coveted type writer becomes the property of Mr. Falkner. He won it fairly. No one was even a close competitor, he leading his nearest opponent by four correct words. The second prize goes to a new contestant, Adolph Shimonek, of Wilber, Nebraska, and while his list was one of the largest received, he managed to get out of the group that was bunched at 840 and below. The third prize is awarded Miss E. Ida Frizzell on account of neatness of list and fewer errors. Miss Daisy Nash sent a neatly written list but having more errors to obtain the same number of correct words she was just a trifle behind and missed the third prize by a narrow margin. She has been awarded a special "honor" prize. The leading contestants and their lists are appended:

Name.	Original List.	Corrected List.
J. W. Falkner,	913	845
Adolph Shimonek,	1,000	841
E. Ida Frizzell,	864	840
Daisy Nash,	891	840
Emma L. Hauck,	856	839
John W. Stowell,	891	839
Anna Blackie,	863	838
Fred Prosser,	910	837
Albert Pennell,	849	836
Henry E. McNeil,	855	836
Henry T. Ward,	965	836
Miss F. B. Hancox,	3,059	835
Alice L. Brown,	874	834

There seems to be a misunderstanding as to the rules regarding the use of the dictionary. It seems quite plain, but still there is a question and many contestants have requested that the unabridged be discarded and the new International substituted. Again, for the benefit of many it is stated that because of the large number of unabridged dictionaries in use that was taken as a standard. The supplement was excluded because not all dictionaries contained it. The International has contained in the body the supplement of the unabridged; and but comparatively few are in use at present, hence the Webster's unabridged will still remain the authority on these contests. Any dictionary published may be used, but all words used in lists not contained in Webster will certainly be rejected.

The Next Word-Building Contest.

NOW that the handsome Hall typewriter has been captured and carried away we suspect that every disappointed young man has registered a pretty solemn vow to the effect that, if he knows himself, and he rather thinks he does, he'll have that Kodak on the 10th of next September, or else know the reason why. And the young ladies, bless

CORRESPONDENCE CLUB.

This Department is established in response to numerous requests from subscribers. All readers are invited to make use of it, remembering the following rules: FIRST—Brevity. SECOND—Clearness of statement. THIRD—Decisive knowledge of what is wanted. FOURTH—The desirability of confining themselves, as much as possible, to questions of interest to others as well as themselves. All questions will be given attention as early as possible, although in some cases more or less delay may be necessary.

OKLAHOMA TO THE FRONT.

PLAIN TALK has some subscribers in Oklahoma. Perhaps they will answer this query. One of our "Best Books" for the best answer, of not more than 200 words, received from a subscriber before September 10th. Open to any subscriber no matter where they reside. The question is from "Don:" "Kindly explain the government of the Indian Territory. Is Oklahoma Territory included in it?"

THE FAIRNESS OF THE WORD-HUNT CONTESTS.

A short time since a young lady declined to renew her subscription to PLAIN TALK because she

thought it was "time that Falkner, and McClelland, and Hauck were excluded from the word-hunts." And then she went on to say that perhaps they "belonged to the family" and it was thought best to "keep the prizes at home." Now this is all wrong. There can be but one winner of any given prize and the contests are conducted with absolute fairness. The gentleman who has charge of the contest would as soon think of attempting to jump over the moon by pulling at his boot straps as of trying to favor any one contestant. As a matter of fact he does not know any one of the winners of prizes, has never seen a single one of them. The contests are "fair and square" and subscribers who send in lists can depend on exact justice.

The subscriber who sends the following letter takes such a fair and just view of the matter that we take the liberty to print his communication as sent:

"Yours of 13th inst., at hand; in reply would say that procrastination was the cause of my not

them! it has even been hinted that they had given up ice-cream for the summer and had resolved to win the prize or die in the attempt. Well, go in! And may the best win!

We repeat, in substance, what we said last month. The contest will close on September 10th. The first prize is to be a "Kodak" camera; the second, any five of our "Best Books;" the third, any three. There is little need of attempting to describe the "Kodak." Everybody has heard of, and knows all about it. The camera will be sent direct from the factory, and will be loaded for 100

photographs. Think what an endless amount of pleasure may be derived from its use. The value of the camera is \$25.00, and we look for an active and close contest.

The base-words selected for this contest are:

WIN THE KODAK.

Note this particular: Hereafter all prize papers must be sent to GEO. D. THOMAS, 14 High Street, Waltham, Mass., who is to have charge of this contest.

The rules governing the contest are as follows:

1. Only subscribers can compete but any one may send their subscriptions in with their list of words.
2. Proper names will not be allowed, and only words found in the body of Webster's Unabridged Dictionary, which will be considered a final authority in deciding all disputed points.
3. Prefixes, suffixes and abbreviations will not be counted, nor will plurals be allowed.
4. Words marked "obsolete" will not be counted, unless they are still current in some one of their meanings.
5. Words of different meaning, but spelt the same, count as one word.
6. Words of the same meaning, but spelled differently, count one word for each spelling, unless one is obsolete.
7. No letter can be used more than once in the same word unless used more than once in the word or words used as a basis of the contest.
8. All lists must be written in ink (or on a type-writer) and must be alphabetically arranged, and the words numbered consecutively.
9. The full name and address of the contestant must be written at the top of the first sheet, and also the word used as the basis of the contest.
10. In case of a close contest, the number of errors and the general neatness of the work will be taken into consideration in awarding the prize.

"TAKE a Kodak with you" is likely to be as well-known an expression as "You press the button—we do the rest," and really the tourist's or vacation-taker's outfit is not complete without a Kodak. Take our advice, as well as that of the manufacturers', and take one with you.

PLAIN TALK improves with every issue; I don't see how you manage to make so good a paper," writes an enthusiastic subscriber. It gives us pleasure to know that the paper is appreciated. As to improvements, just double our subscription list and see how much better the paper can be made.

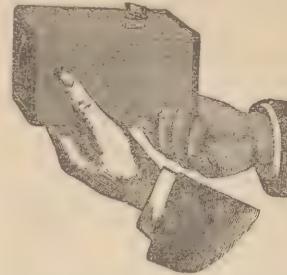
A. W. SHAW, of Jackson, Mich., is in search of a numismatic editor for his magazine, *The Collector's Journal*. The chance of a lifetime for somebody!

remitting my subscription sooner. I would not be without PLAIN TALK if the price was twice or even thruple the amount. I can say nothing in favor of it that has not been said, or deny anything that has been said. I expect to continue my subscription as long as the paper exists and can see no reason why it should terminate soon, for as has often been said, it improves with each issue.

I am now working at the word-hunt, and if I should be the successful one, I will thank you by a card in one of our locals, which I think would be an advantage to you in bringing your paper before a public which seems to know but little of it. I would not mention this, however, if there was any possible chance of you favoring me, but as is perfectly plain, it is impossible for you to do an injustice to any one in this matter.

Hoping that you may continue to grow each year as you have been doing, and wishing you all possible success, I remain, Yours Very Respectfully,

W. D. L."



PUZZLEDOM

CONDUCTED BY "FISCO."

Address all communications pertaining to this Department to EDGAR D. MELVILLE, Puzzle Editor PLAIN TALK 925 Upland Street, Chester, Pa.

Answers to Puzzles that appeared in the June number.

No. 1. Lunchion.

No. 2. a b a c a
ba co n
a c u t e
c o t t a
a n e a r

No. 3. p
l o p
p o l a r
p a n
r

No. 4. b e a r
e d g e
a g u e
r e e l

No. 5. T O M A T O - K E T C H U P.

No. 6. P A N T O M I N E.

No. 7. A r m a d a
r e i t e r
m i m o s a
a t o n i c
d e s i r e
a r a c e d

No. 8. c
p a h
t a l e s
p a r e n t s
c a l e m b o u r
h e n b a n e
s t o n y
s u e
r

No. 9. William Tecumseh Sherman.

No. 10. Sever, fever, lever, never.

No. 11. A fellow-feeling makes one wondrous kind.

No. 12. Left.

Prizes.

For correct list, two of our "Best Books."

For best incomplete list, one of our "Best Books."

The first-named prize will be awarded on the following plan: If an even number of correct answers are received the prize will be sent to the one sending the first; if an odd number, to the one sending the middle correct answer, unless divisible by five, when it will be given for the last correct answer.

Answers to puzzles appearing in this issue will be published in the October number, and answers will be received up to September 10th, 1891, but no answers received after that date will count.

Prize Winner.

A. P. Wylie, (Ophir) Prairie Centre, Ill.

Only one complete list was received. Incomplete lists were received from Incognito, Don, Nemo, E. L. H., Bob, O. Link, Alex, and Miss Anna Blackie.

New Puzzles.

No. 1. TRAPEZOID.

1. A letter; 2. An abbreviation; 3.

A man's nick-name; 4. A phantom; 5. To honor as a god or as divine; 6. To miscarry; 7. The white poplar.

Waterman, Ill. "SOLON."

No. 2. DIAMOND.

1. A consonant; 2. To fold; 3. A dipper; 4. The materials for wads; 5. Solicited; 6. Conclusion; 7. A consonant.

Nutley, N. J. "LATIO."

No. 3. SQUARE.

Across: 1. Concern; 2. Part of the stove; 3. The departed; 4. Mistakes Down: 1. To surrender; 2. To state positively; 3. Behind; 4. Finishes. Leicester, Mass. "Po Po."

No. 4. NUMERICAL ENIGMA.

I am composed of 9 letters and am well known to all.

My 5, 3, 1, is, a doze;
My 9, 4, 2, 8, is, to put to death;
My 7, 6, is, a preposition.

White Plains, N. Y. E. L. H.

No. 5. CROSS-WORD ENIGMA.

My 1st is in heal, but not in sore;
" 2nd " " ear, " " " roar;
" 3rd " " lane, " " " road;
" 4th " " live, " " " load;
" 5th " " rose, " " " leaf;
" 6th " " tulip, " " " brief;
" 7th " " rose, " " " beam;
" 8th " " docr, " " " steam;
" 9th " " prop, " " " board;
" 10th " " vine, " " " goard;

My whole is the name of a much liked flower.

White Plains, N. Y. HAIGHT.

No. 6. DIAMOND.

1. A letter; 2. A prefix; 3. Heaped; 4. Prosperity; 5. Prepared; 6. Arid; 7. A letter.

Cedar Rapids, Ia. "NEMO."

No. 7. PYRAMID.

Across: 1. A letter; 2. A darling.
3. A girl's name; 4. A form of inflorescence.

Down: 1. A letter; 2. Mother; 3. The cranium; 4. A fairy; 5. Twitching; 6. A prefix; 7. A letter.

Cedar Rapids, Ia. "NEMO."

No. 8. SQUARE.

1. An assemblage of tackles; 2. A shoe-maker's awl; 3. Out of the way; 4. To wrinkle; 5. To deride.

White Plains, N. Y. E. L. H.

No. 9. DIAMOND.

1. A letter; 2. United; 3. To mould; 4. To masticate food; 5. A letter.

Sunbury, O. METEOR.

No. 10. LETTER REBUS.

A

S

Atherly, Ont. "DON."

Chat.

All contributions consisting of Anagrams, Charades, and Squares, received by the editor of this department, from July 1st, 1891, to September 10th, 1891, will be entered in competition for prizes offered by "Incognito." Full particulars regarding this contest appeared in the July number.

The sixteenth semi-annual convention of the Eastern Puzzler's League was held on Saturday, July 4th, at the Sheares Club, Eighth and Walnut

Streets, Philadelphia. Representatives from all the United States east of the Mississippi River were present. The next convention will be held in New York City, December 25th, 1891.

Extracts from a recent letter received from "Nemo."

CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia., }
June 19th, 1891. }

DEAR FRIEND FISCO:—Allow me to congratulate you on the success your department in PLAIN TALK is attaining. Puzzledom is growing not only in proportions but in quality also. * * *

"Incognito's" articles on "How to Form and Solve Puzzles" are very helpful to beginners as well as to more experienced puzzlers.

In awarding the prize, you do not count any incomplete lists, do you?

Yours truly,

"NEMO."

In answer to the query appearing in the foregoing communication we desire to state that we have not heretofore included incomplete lists in the prize contests, but a change is made this month.

"PLAIN TALK is booming, and I mean to do all I can to make Puzzledom one of the finest in the land."

Nutley, N. J. "LATIO."

CORRESPONDENCE.

"Alex.—Any forms of puzzles you may send will receive our careful consideration.

"Latio"—The rectangle you sent, together with the other puzzles you sent will be published. Thanks for your offerings and kind words.

EXCHANGE NOTICES.

L. A. Livingston, Davidsburgh, Pa.—Wants a self-inking hand power printing press, with or without outfit, not smaller than 3x5, nor larger than 5x8. Must be cheap and in good condition.

Homer Squyer, Mingusville, Mont.—\$600 worth of fossils, minerals, agates, shells, corals, and curiosities for sale, or trade any quantity for late fall or winter apples, canned or dried fruit. D. A. Smith and Wesson revolver 38 calibre, carpenter's tools, or rare marine shells.

R. G. Treat, South Brooklyn, Cuyahoga Co., Ohio.—A silver quarter for a copy of PLAIN TALK for May, 1891.

Harry L. Ilgenfritz, Lock Box 472, Clarksville, Iowa.—Send stamp for prices paid for United States stamps. Some person having a C. G. Conn cornet, or Higham, or some other reliable make; alto for sale cheap for cash.

Fred H. Chapin, Clarksville, Iowa.—C. G. Conn, alto horn, brass, silver tipped, valve trombone, complete with case, mouth-piece, music rack. The price was \$65.00, but by special courtesy cost me \$45.00. Will sell for \$40.00. C. O. D. to responsible parties.

F. T. Ilgenfritz, Lock Box 26, Clarksville, Iowa.—A few good cents. U. S., for sale at cheap prices. Will give 10 stamps or five cigarette pictures for every stamp not in my collection. Will buy fractional currency.

G. W. Robinette, Flag Pond, Va.—Will exchange one or more good watches, or dry goods for good fossils in quantity, or gorgets, banner stones and other relics.

S. P. Seawell, P. M., Bensalem, Moore Co., N. C.—For sale, one font metal bodied rubber type, with pallet and ink pad and bottle red ink—complete printing outfit cost \$5.50; will sell for \$4.00 cash. Outfit bran new.

W. D. Acker, Poughkeepsie, N. Y.—All or part of about \$50.00 worth of stamps, my library of unbound philatelic magazines and a small collection of coins to exchange for safety bicycle, banjo, rare U. S. Stamps, or cash.

Maud Charlotte Bingham, McGrawville, N. Y.—Perfect Original Newspapers, 1735, 1739, 1746, eighteen cents each. Paper money, coins and curios.

Thad. Surber, White Sulphur Springs, West Va.—Wants a No. 3 or No. 4 cottage press in good condition. Will pay cash.

G. U. Duer, Millersburg, Ohio.—5 arrowheads mailed for dime dated before 1-70. A stone maul and five different kinds of wood, with 25 arrowheads sent by express on receipt of \$1.50. Make best offer in cash for ten each of 3 and 6 cent official stamps.

H. J. Douglass, Champaign, N. Y.—1869 one-half D. O. uncir. 1884 Quarter, fine 1800 Dime, good date plugged copper cents 1794, 1795, 1797, 1805, 1806; fair 1800, 1801, 1803, 1807, 1808, 1810, 1812; good 1780 Mass Bills, one, two and four dollars for best offer.

Exchange and Sale Department.

Subscribers who pay \$1.00 per year have the privilege of this department free, subject to the following rules. To those not subscribers the charge is 1 cent per word per issue. Old subscribers who were on our books March 1, 1891, have the privilege of this department free to the close of 1891, regardless of the amount paid for subscription. It must be understood that we can take no responsibility concerning exchanges effected by means of this department, neither will the reliability of exchangers be guaranteed. To avoid any misunderstanding in the matter, it would be advisable for those contemplating exchanging to write for particulars to the addresses before sending the articles desired. Notices must be plainly and concisely written, following the general arrangement given below, and on one side of the paper only. Send as often as you please, but not more than one notice for single issue. Notices of more than 10 words not inserted. Notices are not repeated, i.e., a notice can have but one insertion. Exchange notices of revolvers, "trashy" novels, etc., not inserted. The publishers reserve the right to decline to insert any notice if they think best.

A. E. Marks, Woodfords, Me.—For sale or exchange, a World typewriter, entirely new, cost \$15; make offers.

A. C. Gruhlke, Waterloo, Ind.—Wanted, a first-class field glass or camera; have a Winchester repeating shotgun, electric motor, induction coil, autoharp and other musical instruments to exchange.

Jesse McDowell, 219 East Tremont Street, Fostoria, O.—Has the following articles for sale: A collection of 500 varieties of stamps and an international album, \$3.50; a banjo, \$5; a 5x5 hand-inking printing press, \$5; a good violin, bow and case, \$12; and Odell typewriter, \$10.

B. S. Mickel, Oswego, N. Y.—Wants safty bicycle, autoharp, and medical battery (Paradise); will give cash or good exchange; have chimes of Normandy clock, \$100 telescope, 50 inch expert bicycle and other articles for offers in cash or exchange.

Jno. S. Brydon, 350 W. Indiana Street, Chicago, Ill.—Will give 150 foreign stamps and a Chinese coin for 10c; set of Congo Free State 1, 2, 5 and 10 centimes for 26c; a lot of old U. S. cents dated before 1857 for 10c.

O. D. Walbridge, Marseilles, Ill.—For sale, varied sets of U. S. dept stamps, Indian pipes, stone and flint relics, war relics, fossil ferns in iron stone, confederate bills and stamps; list for stamp.

W. S. Kinzer, Wooster, Ohio.—Wholesale lots of U. S. stamps for other U. S. or good foreign stamps; will exchange rare stamps with advanced collectors.

R. W. Stearns, Sewall Ave., Brookline, Mass.—Will exchange recipes for recipor or for "adv." space in any paper; send for lists.

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